

opportunity to prevent a calamity, to prevent a disaster from happening.

I am just beseeching my colleagues in this House to pay attention to this critical issue. Do not let this industry disintegrate. We must protect the enrichment industry in this country, we must protect the mining industry, we must protect the conversion industry in this country. If we do not, if we do not, in a few short years this country could find itself in an untenable situation where we must depend totally upon foreign sources for some 23 percent of our Nation's electricity. We cannot let that happen.

Mr. Speaker, I beg my colleagues, I beg my colleagues, to pay attention to this vital issue.

GETTING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL OFF OF FOOD STAMPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I come back to the floor after several weeks of not being on the floor to talk about our men and women in uniform that are on food stamps.

This photograph is of a Marine that is getting ready to deploy for the Balkans. In his arms he has his daughter, Bridgett, and on his feet is a little 2-year-old girl named Megan.

Mr. Speaker, we have done a great deal to help our men and women in uniform in the 6 years I have been here in office as we have tried to increase their pay, to improve their quality of life, and we have made some great strides. But, Mr. Speaker, the problem is, we still have men and women in uniform that are on food stamps.

Mr. Speaker, I feel, as do most Members of this House, that anybody that is willing to die for this country when called upon to protect our freedoms, they should not be under any circumstances on food stamps.

I felt somewhat compelled after July 4th, being home, and, like most Members here, I went to several parades, and at a couple of these parades the Marine Band was there and the Honor Guard, and I saw those Marines in their dress blues, and it just reminded me, not just of Marines, but any man or woman in uniform, whether it be the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Air Force or the Coast Guard, that we would have those in uniform that are on food stamps.

Here we are this week, again we will be debating another foreign operations bill, yet we find millions of dollars to send overseas. I know there is a need to have foreign aid, I am not saying that we should not be, but I think we do have an obligation to protect those in uniform first, those that are on food stamps. Quite frankly, I am quoting Daniel Webster who said, "God grants liberty to those who love it and are willing and prepared to defend it."

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have the men and women in uniform

that we have in the Armed Services of America, but, yet, again, I came to the floor because we have a bill that I introduced a year ago, H.R. 1055, that would help our men and women in uniform. I have over 100 signatures, Mr. Speaker, and that is both Republican and Democrat, and I continue to encourage my leadership, as I hope that Democrats who have signed this bill are encouraging their leadership, to say that we will not leave this year in October without helping those on food stamps, to do the very best to make sure that we have no one in uniform on food stamps. That might be somewhat idealistic, but I think it is worthy of our efforts to do that, to make sure that they are not on food stamps.

I want to share with you, because I have military bases, Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, Cherry Point Marine Air Station in Havelock, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, and also a Coast Guard base in Elizabeth City.

Recently the Jacksonville paper, which is the home of Camp Lejeune, they did a feature on men and women in uniform that are at the bottom of the ladder, so-to-speak, as it speaks to their income, and this article said that there are 145 Marine families in Camp Lejeune, which again is in Jacksonville, that receive a total of \$25,000 a month in food stamps.

I ask this, Mr. Speaker, that if we have 145 that are identified that go to the social services for food stamps, how many do we have in that area that are not going because of pride or because of some other reason?

So, again, I am encouraging our leadership this year, Mr. Speaker, before we leave in October, to please, let us work together in a bipartisan way to make sure that when we leave, that no one is dependent on food stamps in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a poem that I think is very appropriate for all of us in the Congress, as well as anyone in this country that maybe has not served in the military, to remember that the freedoms that we enjoy are guaranteed by those in uniform.

The poem was written by Father Dennis O'Brien, United States Marine Corps.

"Who has given us freedom of the press?
It is the soldier, not the poet.
Who has given us freedom of speech?
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer.
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate?
It is the soldier.
Who salutes the flag.
Who serves beneath the flag,
Whose coffin is draped by the flag.
Who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Mr. Speaker, I close with that, because, again, I want to remind the Members of the United States House of Representatives that we do have over 6,000 men and women in uniform which are on food stamps, and I would hope we would do everything possible to make sure when we leave again in October that we have very few in the military on food stamps.

□ 1800

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) switch places in the queue, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) has an important dinner this evening, if we might do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD LASCH, FAITHFUL SERVANT TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for arranging the switching of the order. It is very gracious of him.

The Congressional Record of course will duly note whatever I say on the floor tonight, although perhaps few others will. But I feel compelled to come to the floor and share with my colleagues a deep sense of loss that I feel and that I think most every Member of this body will feel that our friend and our very faithful colleague or servant, Ronald Lasch, has chosen to enter retirement.

Ron was a great friend of all of us in this body, a great helpmate to all of us in this body. There are few that I have served with or worked with as a Member of the Congress who have been more effective in allowing me to do my job better than I would otherwise have been able to do it than Ron Lasch.

I remember Ron Lasch also as someone who was an ad hoc, but very, very effective and important, staff person or advisor to the members of the North Atlantic Parliamentary Group who represent this country in the meetings of the North Atlantic Assembly of NATO. His advice, his wisdom, his breadth of knowledge on the issues that we were debating and discussing was always something that we could look to and learn from. He was, indeed, a remarkable part of how this institution works and works better; and he will be very definitely and sincerely missed by so many of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) for yielding to me. I came